

## **Monthly Report for June-July 2018**

*Submitted August 6, 2018*

### **Meetings and Conferences**

#### Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (Kirwan Commission)

On July 13, 2018, the MLDS Center presented findings from its ongoing study of student and school poverty to the *Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education*. The Center was invited to speak, as this work supports the Commission's charge to review and recommend any needed changes to update the current education funding formulas and make policy recommendations that would enable Maryland's preK-12 system to perform at the level of the best-performing systems in the world.

In this presentation, Dr. Angela Henneberger and Dr. Bess Rose first used data from the 2007-2008 cohort of sixth-grade students to describe poverty-based and race/ethnicity-based gaps in educational outcomes (e.g., dropping out, graduating from high school on time, enrolling in postsecondary within one year of graduation, and standardized test scores). Next, they presented findings from analyses that use multilevel models in order to disentangle the distinct roles of student poverty (the duration of time during grades 6 through 12 each individual student is living in poverty) and school poverty (school concentration of poverty) as well as student race and ethnicity and school composition. These analyses allowed the researchers to make apple-to-apple comparisons that account for all of these factors simultaneously. The research found that students who experienced poverty for longer periods of time have worse educational outcomes; school concentration of poverty, regardless of individual experience, usually predicts worse educational outcomes; racial and ethnic gaps in standardized test scores persist regardless of poverty; and racial and ethnic gaps in dropout, graduation, and postsecondary enrollment disappear or are reversed when controlling for poverty and school composition.

The presentation was well received by the Commission and Drs. Henneberger and Rose were asked to conduct follow-up research to help the Commission determine if there is a tipping point where school poverty starts to have the most significant negative impact on student performance.

#### Maryland Connections Summit

On June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, several MLDS Center staff attended the 2018 Maryland Connections Summit which was a conference hosted by the Maryland State Department of Education. The conference brought together education professionals from across Maryland to highlight the vital role data plays in education decision making.

Members of the research team attended the Summit and gave two presentations. Dr. Henneberger presented on the use of causal inference methodologies for program evaluation with state data, using dual enrollment in Maryland as an example. Drs. Rose, Mushonga, and Henneberger presented on the use of eligibility for free and reduced price meals (FARMS) to measure student and school poverty in Maryland. Both presentations were well-received and feedback will be incorporated into future versions of presentations and reports.

Ann Kellogg, MLDS Center Director of Reporting Services co-presented with Barbara Schmertz MHEC's Associate Director of Research and Policy at the Maryland Connections Summit. The presentation focused on the MHEC-MLDS Center collaboration to produce the Student Outcome and Achievement Study (SOAR). This report is MHEC's response to the General Assembly's 1988 edict to "improve information on high schools and local school systems concerning the performance of their graduates at the college level." This is the first time that MLDS Center will be involved in the production of the SOAR.

#### Synthetic Data: Balancing Data Confidentiality & Quality in Public Use Files

With support from the SDP grant, Dr. Rose attended the Joint Program in Survey Methodology (JPSM) Short Course "Synthetic Data: Balancing Data Confidentiality & Quality in Public Use Files" on Monday, June 11 and Tuesday, June 12, 2018, in Washington, DC. This hands-on training provided her with a better understanding of the different approaches to generating synthetic datasets in detail, how to assess possible modeling strategies, how to evaluate analytical validity, and potential measures to quantify the remaining risk of disclosure.

#### Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research

Dr. Dawnsha Mushonga, Postdoctoral Fellow working with the Center, was awarded a fellowship to attend a month long advanced statistical training hosted by the University of Michigan Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR). ICPSR's mission is to advance and expand social and behavioral research, acting as a global leader in data stewardship and providing rich data resources and responsive educational opportunities for present and future generations. Dr. Mushonga is taking courses on longitudinal data analysis.

#### SLDS Employment Outcome Metrics Workgroup

The MLDS Center was asked by the SLDS State Support Team to participate in a workgroup tasked with defining common wage calculations and other metrics for workforce outcomes across states. The workgroup meets monthly through the summer.

#### Research and Policy Advisory Board Meeting

The Research and Policy Advisory Board (RPB) June meeting was held on May 31<sup>st</sup>. The meeting provided a forum for finalizing stakeholder input on MLDS Center output priorities for 2017-2018. A presentation was given by Dr. Rachel Durham of the Baltimore Education Research Consortium, Johns Hopkins University, to support her external research application *How Do Postsecondary Workforce Readiness Indicators Relate to College Readiness Indicators?* RPB attendees provided Dr. Durham with feedback on her proposal. RPB members recommended the Executive Director approve her application. Additionally, Dr. Stapleton presented an update on her research on *Which 4-year institutions are graduating students most effectively and in the timeliest fashion?* for additional feedback. Finally, the Research Branch presented an overview of the FY19 Research Grant Competition from the Institute for Education Sciences. The focus of this grant is *Partnerships and Collaborations Focused on Problems of Practice or Policy*. Dr. Henneberger discussed the grant opportunity and will work with stakeholders to identify possible topics for the grant. If the grant advances to application, Dr. Henneberger will present the grant application to RPB in August and to the Governing Board in September. RPB was not held in

July.

#### University of Maryland, College Park Graduate Outcomes Meeting

Center staff met with representatives of University Maryland, College Park (UMCP) to discuss how MLDS Center could support their annual Graduation Survey report. UMCP conducts exit surveys with all bachelor's degree graduates to obtain post-graduation employment outcome information. UMCP is interested in how MLDS Center can supplement their efforts for compiling data for this report. The Center agreed to complete a wage visibility analysis of the most recent cohort of UMCP graduates within MLDS Center data to determine the feasibility of using Center data for the report. MLDS Center will also explore if other colleges require a similar report.

#### Student Transfer Advisory Council

The Center continued its work on studying postsecondary transfer degree outcomes by meeting with the Student Transfer Advisory Council (STAC) on June 26th. STAC was created by the Commission to review the status of transfer and articulation in Maryland and recommend policy changes to the Secretary. MLDS Center presented an overview of its work on Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT) and Associate of Engineering (ASE) degrees (previously presented to the AAT Oversight Council and the ASE Oversight Council) and discussed the Center's plans to further develop this preliminary studies to more broadly explore the educational and workforce outcomes for students in transfer degree programs. The Council meeting provided the Center with a forum to gather information that will support its efforts to develop operational definitions for transfers and transfer pathways, identify the pre-enrollment, enrollment and transfer behaviors of interest to stakeholders, and determine metrics for reporting on employment and wage data. The Center will continue working closely with MHEC, STAC and other stakeholder groups on its transfer pathways project.

#### National Center on Education Statistics Data Conference

Center staff attended the annual National Center on Education Statistics Data Conference, [STATS-DC](#), this past month in Washington, DC. STATS-DC has a range of sessions targeted to Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) governance and data collection, data linking beyond K-12, data management, data privacy, data quality, data standards, data use (both analytical and instructional), and fiscal data, as well as information about changes in how the U.S. Department of Education collects and uses data.

Ross Goldstein was part of a panel discussion titled: *The Art of the Possible: Data Governance Lessons Learned from Kentucky, Maryland, and Washington*. The discussion focused on each state's governance model and how each state was able to create strong cross-agency data governance, the challenges they overcame, and lessons learned.

#### **Appeal to Social Security Administration (SSA) on Exchange of MVA SSN Records**

The Center successfully appealed the Social Security Administration's (SSA) decision to prohibit MVA from providing Social Security Numbers (SSNs) to the MLDS Center previously established through an MOU. MVA will resume providing MLDS Center with SSNs and other driver information.

The Center's appeal put forth several reasons why SSA's decision to prohibit SSNs from being disclosed to MLDSC should be overturned. The response from SSA is provided below:.

*After detailed analysis, SSA's legal staff has determined that the Maryland Motor Vehicles Administration (MDOT) can share SSNs in its database with the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center (MLDSC) for purposes you mentioned earlier. I have already shared this information with MDOT.*

*- Anna Kartha, Regional Data Exchange Officer  
Social Security Administration, Philadelphia Region*

## **Center Output**

### **Research Reports**

The research report on the effects of the educational assistance (EA) grant in Maryland has been updated and fully drafted. New results examine STEM major concentration by year, finding that the main persistence effects appears to be mostly driven by those who persist in STEM majors. The earnings outcomes were also extended to look at earnings six and seven years after entry, which found positive effects on those two variables. Furthermore, additional heterogeneous effects were added to examine effects by subgroups of students.

### **Poverty Study**

Leading up to the presentation to the Kirwan Commission (see above), the research analyses were presented at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Research Series, for staff at the Department of Legislative Services on June 4<sup>th</sup>, to staff in the Title I department at MSDE on June 11<sup>th</sup>, and, by request, to the the ACLU of Maryland. Each of the presentations and discussions helped the researchers refine and improve the analysis of the research.

### **Dual Enrollment**

The research report on the long term effects of dual enrollment on college and career outcomes has been reviewed and edits and comments have been addressed. This report, entitled *Effects of Dual Enrollment on College and Workforce Outcomes*, has been prepared for publication to the MLDS Center website. This report is in addition to the statutorily required *Annual Dual Enrollment Report*, which will be published later this year.

### **Remedial Coursework**

A full draft of the research report examining the predictors of needing remedial coursework in Maryland 2-year colleges has been circulated to the MLDS team for review. This report is being finalized and formatted for publication to the MLDS Center website.

## **Research Branch**

### **Research Grants**

Members of the research team are coordinating with a number of State partners to form a competitive application for the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) topic on Research-Practitioner Partnerships in Education Research. This grant is due in August of 2018 and is a 2 year grant for a maximum of \$400,000.

Dr. David Blazar, who recently joined the research team (July 1<sup>st</sup>), is the Principal Investigator (PI) for the grant and Dr. Henneberger is a Co-PI on the grant. The grant will expand upon partnerships to create a list of critical research questions to inform State policy around the teacher pipeline and leverage the MLDS to study the teacher pipeline in Maryland. Preliminary discussions have been held with the MLDS Center Research and Policy Advisory board, and in meetings with MSDE, MHEC, USM, and Commissioners from the Kirwan Commission. Dr. Henneberger has submitted the *External Researcher and Grant Funded Research Projects* application and supporting materials, which will be submitted to agency partners within the next week.

### Personnel

Dr. Henneberger has been coordinating the MLDS research branch contract and budget submission with Dr. Stapleton at UMCP and Dr. Lincove at UMBC. Dr. Henneberger has been coordinating with a number of faculty members to expand upon the team of the MLDS research branch, adding expertise from educational policy, statistics, and economics. The research branch welcomes the following members of the research team beginning July 1, 2018:

- Dr. Tracy Sweet, Assistant Professor of Human Development and Quantitative Methodology, UMCP
- Dr. David Blazar, Assistant Professor of Education Policy and Economics, UMCP
- Dr. Nolan Pope, Assistant Professor of Economics, UMCP

### **System Management**

#### Tasks

1. Staff is working with MVA to resume submission of Social Security Numbers, including the information for the period of time that MVA stopped providing SSNs.
2. Staff is working with MSDE RTTT staff to assist with consolidating and terminating certain portions of the RTTT website.
3. Along with MSDE and DoIT, Center staff is continuing to evaluate different options for continuing the Center's Oracle licensing.
4. Center staff continues to meet monthly to address security issues and complete actions to tighten the Center's security profile. Also, Center staff validates the weekly Intrusion Detection System reports.
5. Staff continues to keep current all monthly desktop and server patches.
6. Staff is continuing to implement firewall hardening and password hardening best practices.
7. Staff completed creating webflow templates for Research Spotlights and Information Briefs.

#### Data Loads

The system management team:

1. Completed loading 14,059 postsecondary degree records from National Student Clearinghouse files received on 5/29/2018;
2. Completed loading 71,062 K12 summer attendance records and 962 high school graduation records into MLDSC Database from MSDE;
3. Completed loading five National Student Clearinghouse data extracts received in May, which included:

- a. 1.25 million college enrollment records for 12<sup>th</sup> grade cohorts from academic years 2012 (enrollments through 60 months post-HS), 2013 (through 48 months), 2015 (through 24 months), 2016 (through 16 months) and 2017 (through 6 months);
  - b. A total of 187,000 new enrollments in out-of-state colleges and 99,000 new enrollments in Maryland colleges;
4. Completed loading academic year 2017 College Readiness Assessments - ACT, IB , SAT, PSAT & AP and MSDE High School Assessments (HSA);
5. Completed loading Unemployment Insurance quarters 3 & 4 of 2017;
6. Received Enrollment Information System (EIS) winter and spring files and will be loaded; and
7. Performed ongoing identity resolution for individuals who have multiple system ID's for the same identifier.

#### Data Requests

MLDS Center received the following data requests in June and July:

1. Postsecondary and workforce outcomes for Montgomery County high school graduates (Isaiah Ellis, MHEC);
2. Number of Maryland postsecondary graduates who remain in Maryland (James Palma, Department of Commerce).
3. Five quarter median wages of the December 2016 and May 2017 bachelors recipients from Morgan State University by broad academic program and by NAICS codes (Cheryl Rollins, Morgan State University).
4. High school pathways - information on whether students completed graduation requirements using (a) world language, (b) advanced tech ed, or (c) CTE and whether those students enrolled in postsecondary education, and where? (Dara Shaw, MSDE).
5. Data on the postsecondary outcomes of Anne Arundel County Students who take part in Anne Arundel County Public Schools' internship program (Rudy Ruiz, Maryland Business Roundtable and Tammy Diedrich, Anne Arundel County Public Schools).
6. Average high school GPA by county based on average income in county (Daniel Greigg).

MLDS Center completed the following data requests in June and July:

1. Postsecondary and workforce outcomes for Montgomery County high school graduates (see #1 above).
2. Morgan State University bachelor recipients (see #3 above).
3. Number of Maryland postsecondary graduates who remain in Maryland (see #2 above).
4. A frequency distributions for high school graduates from Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's Counties enrolling in college (Chad Muntz, USM).
5. High school pathways (see #4 above).
6. The request for average high school GPA by county based on average income in each county (see # 6 above) was not fulfilled because MLDS Center does not include county income data and the remaining portion of the request is single sector (only MSDE K-12 data).